

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 449

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of Short Creek Baptist Church upon their 175th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Short Creek Baptist Church, the members of which, are celebrating the church's 175th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1834, Short Creek Baptist Church was built on land donated by Hamilton Stewart near the head of Short Creek; and

WHEREAS, the original church house, which served as the church building for the first fifty-nine years, was built out of hewn logs and utilized the bare ground as the floor; and

WHEREAS, not having a fireplace and chimney in the original church house, the congregation would build a fire on a large mound of rocks in the center of the building and let it burn down to coals to heat the church during the services; a wide fireplace and chimney were added at a later date; and

WHEREAS, during revivals, straw was strewn over the ground floor so that people could kneel for prayer; and

WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings, the church leaders and congregation at Short Creek Baptist Church, following the guidance of the Lord, have expanded the size of the church buildings over the decades to keep up with the growth of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, a cornerstone was laid for a new two-story building to be utilized by both the church and the local Masonic lodge; the first floor of the new building was used for church services and the second floor was used by the Short Creek Masonic Lodge No. 591 for the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the church purchased the Mason's interest in the building for \$350 in 1903, and the second floor was converted into Sunday school classrooms; and

WHEREAS, with the two-story building now wholly in the possession of the congregation, it served as the church house for the next several decades; and

WHEREAS, by the 1950s, the members of Short Creek Baptist Church decided to build a new church building to accommodate its increasing membership and to help the congregation members continue in their mission and Christian endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the new church building, situated on a parcel of land adjacent to the original church, was constructed of wood and concrete blocks and included a full-sized basement for Sunday school classes; and

WHEREAS, with remarkable faith and significant contributions by the congregation, over the ensuing decades, further improvements to the church were made as Short Creek Baptist Church continued its worthy mission of spreading the Good News of the Lord to its members and the world at large; several improvements to the church included new pews in 1965, air conditioning in 1967, and carpet, stained glass windows, and brick in 1970; and

WHEREAS, a large extension was built in 1975, which included a new fellowship hall, choir loft, baptistery, office, library, and Sunday school rooms; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, this historic church celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service in the Lord; and

WHEREAS, with heart pine paneling donated by a Baptist Church in Ringgold, Georgia, the choir loft was paneled to match the sanctuary in 2000, and an addition to the front of the church was constructed in 2001, consisting of a foyer, sound room, restrooms, and porch; and

WHEREAS, with congregational input, expectant prayer, and acts of faith throughout their history, the devout members of Short Creek Baptist Church have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Short Creek Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional and historic congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Short Creek Baptist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.